

REMARKS

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The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated August 11, 2006, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by November 11, 2006.

Claims 1, 3, and 6-14 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 1-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1-2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) or (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,780,093 to Krondorfer et al. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Krondorfer et al.

The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 7-10 if rewritten to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In the present amendment, allowable claims 7-10 have been rewritten in independent form as new claims 11-14, respectively.

Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly define the present invention over the cited references by adding the features of claims 2, 4, and 5, which have been canceled.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the sanding plate receiving element for a sanding plate for carrying/receiving exchangeable sanding sheets for an eccentric sander is completely different from the grinding-disc-clamping system of the Krondorfer reference. Eccentric sanders are only suited as sanders, not as cutters, so only operate along surfaces.

The receiving element of the present invention must carry the sanding plate fixed on it by screws. The screws fit screwably into the screw holes 8 of the receiving element. The lugs 3 fit into counter holes within the sanding plate. They center the sanding plates' position on the receiving element, thereby making it easy and quick to set the fixing screws correctly.

Furthermore, an important part of the receiving element of the present invention is the bearing flange 2 with a bearing 1 in its center to be freely rotatable around the bearing axis/around the driving shaft, as basically required for an eccentric sander's operation as a sander.

The cited reference to Krondorfer discloses a grinding disk receiving/clamping system for a grinding machine, such as an angle grinder. Its tools/discs are not suitable for sanding surfaces, but only for cutting parts into separate shapes, similar to the way in which a circular saw operates.

Krondorfer's system is fixed rigidly to a driving shaft and is not freely rotatable via a bearing relative to a driving shaft.

Krondorfer also does not disclose screw holes in his system, so that it is not relevant to a bearing flange that is freely rotatable about its axis.

Because amended claim 1 includes features that are not disclosed or suggested by the Krondorfer reference, the rejection under Section 102 must be withdrawn. Krondorfer cannot be an appropriate reference either under MPEP section 2131, which indicates that to anticipate a claim a reference must teach every element of the claim in as complete detail as is contained in Applicant's

claim, or under MPEP section 2143.03, since not all of Applicant's claim limitations are taught or suggested.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3, and 6-14 are patentable over the cited art. The Applicants further request withdrawal of the rejections and reconsideration of the claims as herein amended.

In light of the foregoing amendments and arguments in support of patentability, the Applicants respectfully submit that this application stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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